



DPLA Hub Network Membership Program

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) brings together a rich, unique collection of over 16 million items from dozens of Hubs and thousands of contributing institutions. Since its inception, millions of people, from young students to retired lifelong learners, have taken advantage of the free and open resources that DPLA provides in collaboration with the Hubs Network. DPLA is focused on maximizing access to and user engagement with the Nation's shared history, culture, and knowledge. Collaboration advances the impact of our network, leading our users to deeper engagement with and understanding of our shared culture.

The DPLA Hub Network is a unique nationwide collective working toward the common goal to bring the riches of our nation's cultural heritage organizations to a broad, engaged public. Together, we inspire collaboration and help build capacity among institutions of all types, sizes, and resource levels. As a network, we can achieve what each of us could not individually. Through projects such as Hydra-in-a-Box and RightsStatements.org, we've worked together to identify and solve common issues.

The DPLA Hub Membership Program allows us to fully realize this potential by giving Hubs a formal voice and increased ownership of the network. Through membership, we can work more effectively together, ensuring that the network remains vibrant, engaged, productive, and focused on the highest priority needs of its members. Sustainability of the network benefits us all.

Shared Values

The work of the member network is grounded in our shared values:

- A passion for expanding the reach of openly available materials.
- A dedication to constructive collaboration.
- A commitment to working at scale to advance the work and impact of the cultural heritage community as a whole.
- A belief in the value of equitable access to information as a public good.

Fees

- \$10,000/year/Hub; \$12,500/year for multi-state Hubs
- Fees will not change during the initial three year term
- Fees will be evaluated after the initial three year term, with input from the Advisory Council and DPLA Board

Benefits

- Regular published ingest schedule for each member (3-6 times/year). Ingest of Member Hub metadata (assuming no changes in schema or endpoint from the Member) on a regular, published schedule, with frequency agreed upon jointly based on frequency of changes to Hub data.
- Member analytics dashboard. Dashboard showing use and other analytics data related specifically to content from the Member Hub.

- Participation in member working groups/committees. Option for staff and others affiliated with Member Hub to participate in working groups and standing committees established by the Advisory Council.
- Involvement and inclusion in curation projects. Member Hubs will have opportunities to provide input on content of curated resources such as exhibitions and browsing lists, and potentially collaborating with DPLA on development of these resources.
- Member-proposed initiatives to solve common problems across the network. Through the Network Council and Advisory Council, members will surface issues to be addressed collaboratively and prioritize the efforts of the network.
- Hub Network member meeting. Opportunity for two participants from each Member Hub to attend the annual multi-day Hub Network Meeting, with no registration fee.
- DPLA community website/wiki. Hub Network site to support individual and collective work of the Hubs and facilitate communication across the network.
- Support of programmatic interface (API) for access to enhanced data. Development and maintenance of API that allows innovative reuse of data held in DPLA by developers, researchers, and others both within and outside the network.
- Access to enriched DPLA mapped schema records via bulk download. Enhanced metadata includes enriched geolocation, and data clean up to meet DPLA standards.
- Initial training and onboarding for Hubs. DPLA staff provide training, documentation, quality assurance testing, and consultation for new Hubs in support of their initial ingest.
- DPLA Local. Package to create DPLA local site, by providing a custom API feed and customized template (not ready at launch).

Governance

The Hub Member Network will introduce a formal participatory governance structure, which will allow more effective communication and collaboration across the network and increase transparency of decision-making.

Members can participate in governance through involvement in the following councils:

- Network Council - A governing body responsible for nominating and electing members to the Advisory Council and for electing representatives to the DPLA Board of Directors. Each member will have one seat on the Network Council.
- Advisory Council - An elected body that works closely with the DPLA staff to advise on member initiatives, new opportunities, and strategic directions DPLA should consider to better serve its network. The Advisory Council will be responsible for approving working groups.
- DPLA Board of Directors - Two member representative seats will be made available as term positions on the DPLA Board.

Network Council

Every Member Hub will appoint one representative to the Network Council. The Network Council will:

- Provide oversight to Working Groups/Committees, including identifying and recruiting participants with appropriate expertise
- Surface network-wide issues and opportunities for collaboration to the Advisory Council
- Elect, on an annual basis, a Chair and Co-Chair who will serve as ex-officio members of the Advisory Council

- Vote on matters such as changes to the governance structure, and (after the first year), members of the Advisory Council
- Participate in and help set agenda for quarterly meetings, to be run by the Chair and Co-Chair

To fulfill this role, Network Council members should have an understanding of the full range of their Hub's work. Hubs may change their Network Council representative as needed by notifying the Network Council Chair, Co-Chair, and DPLA Network Manager.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will include up to seven Hub representatives, as well as the Chair and Co-Chair of the Network Council as ex-officio members. The Advisory Council will:

- Work closely with DPLA staff to set network priorities, explore new initiatives, resolve issues
- Approve new working groups/committees
- Provide feedback to and advise DPLA on programs that impact the membership
- Identify strategic opportunities and potential network initiatives, at large and through consultation with the Network Council
- Meet monthly with DPLA staff
- Advocate with external funding sources, as appropriate to support projects and programs of high interest to the membership

Advisory Council members should have a strategic leadership role in their Hub, or their Hub's parent organization, and an understanding of the national landscape for digital libraries. Advisory Council members may, but need not be, their Hub representative to the Network Council. The first year, Advisory Council members will be selected by DPLA through an application process. The Network Council will elect Advisory Board members after the first year. Advisory Council members will have staggered terms of two years.

DPLA Board Seats

Two representatives from the Hub network are reserved for senior leaders within network. The representatives will be nominated by the DPLA leadership and Advisory Council and appointed by the DPLA Board.

Working Groups/Standing Committees

Members of any Working Groups and Standing Committees may be drawn from the Councils or any staff with necessary expertise from the Member Hubs. Occasionally, Working Groups and Committees may invite participants from outside the Hubs that have significant expertise beneficial to the group.